

5 **AUTOMATICALLY DETERMINING THE AWARENESS**
 SETTINGS AMONG PEOPLE IN DISTRIBUTED
 WORKING ENVIRONMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 Communication channels among users in a collaborative computing
system are automatically adjusted based on users' current states detected by
various sensing devices. The collaboration system that includes an awareness
system for evaluating, monitoring, and controlling, in real-time, the
collaboration environment by having events and occurrences with properties.
The awareness monitoring system includes (1) receiving and analyzing real
15 time data from input sensors and (2) an elastic spring energy model for
automatically adjusting a distance according to a level of privacy desired by
individual users, the requirement of the organization, and a need of the
collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user
activities. When a spring energy model is difficult to obtain, a matrix looks up
20 model is used to automatically adjust a distance according to a level of privacy
desired by individual users, the requirement of the organization, and the need
of the collaborative project.